



STINGER SPORTS

10TH ANNUAL CONCORDIA CLASSIC TO FEATURE OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

The 1981 edition of the Concordia Classic promises to have the most competitive field in the tournament's ten year history with eight outstanding university teams vying for the coveted championship.

The Concordia Women's Basketball Classic will once again be a showcase of talent when it gets underway Thursday, November 26th. The three day tourney will feature four teams that participated in the 1980 Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union National championships, including Bishop's University (2nd place finishers in the CIAU), U.N.B. (3rd), Concordia (5th) and Laurentian (6th). Add to that the likes of the vastly improved McGill squad, and three strong U.S. teams in St. John's (N.Y.), Providence College and Southern Connecticut State College, and you have a powerful field.

Action gets underway at 3 p.m., Thursday when the Bishop's Lady Gaiters will meet Southern Connecticut. Wayne Hussey's powerful squad includes six members who participated in the 1981 Canadian National program, (Denise Dignard, Connie Classen, Karen McComber, Andrea Blackwell, Lynn Polson and Theresa Grant. Bishop's, the pre-tournament favourites are aiming to defend the title they have won the last two years. Southern Connecticut is making their fourth appearance in the Classic and will be led by sophomore, Kim Osborne.

Following the Southern Connecticut-Bishop's clash, the McGill Martlets and Providence Lady Friars will meet. Coach Hubert Lacroix is expecting big things from this year's team which features veterans Karen Diaz, Annie Constantinides, Linda Schaapman, Annette Kiss, as well as Linda Marquis who formerly played for Laval. Providence will be paced by veterans Kathy Finn, Kerry Phayre and Madeline McCoy.

The host Stingers will go against the Laurentian Voyageurs in the 7 p.m. contest. Mike Hickey's squad has started well this season led by league All-Stars Joann Bourque and Beth Mansfield as well as Carolyn Marriott, Janet Hylland, Dana Delgado, Sue Bates, Joy McBride and freshmen Patti Fox and Mary Hughes. Laurentian is another young talented club that is expected to challenge for a berth in the C.I.A.U. standings. Coach Peter Ennis' team is paced by Franca Ingribelli and Debbie Davies as well as guards Linda Palango and Debbie Knowles. Laurentian defeated Concordia by four points earlier in the season.

Thursday's final game pits St. John's Express of New York City against the University of New Brunswick Red Bloomers. Don Perelli has veteran guards Kelly Camp and Kerry Karst anchoring an outstanding team. Coleen Dufresne, who led the Red Bloomers to a third place finish in the 1981 C.I.A.U. Nationals will rely on veterans Jill Jeffrey, Sandy Hill and newcomer Laura Gillespie.

Friday's games will begin with the consolation semi-finals at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. and are followed by the championship semi-finals at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. The championship final is slated for 7 p.m. Saturday preceded by third place game at 5 p.m. and the consolation final at 3 p.m. Team awards, as well as individual All-Stars and Most Valuable Player Awards will be presented following the final game.